

PRINCE OF PEACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 9:00am Sunday School

MONDAY—
FRIDAY

- 8:00 am Morning Prayer (Chapel)

THURSDAY

- 1:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Healing

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Parish Picnic Sept 10

Pictures/ Photo Directory Sept 12 & 13

Safeguarding God's Children Sept 23

Sunday School Begins Sept 24

Blessing of the Animal Oct 1

Bishop's Visit Oct 8

Children's Sabbath / Pumpkin Oct 15

The Visitor

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2006

“Intelligent Design” and the Baptismal Covenant

A recent feature article in *The Dickinson Lawyer*, the alumni magazine of Penn State-Dickinson School of Law, high-lighted the decision last year in the highly publicized court case out of Dover, Pennsylvania involving the teaching of “intelligent design” in the public schools there. US District Judge John E. Jones III, a 1980 graduate of Dickinson, presided at the trial of the Dover case. After hearing weeks of testimony, primarily from experts, Judge Jones rendered his opinion that “intelligent design” is not a valid scientific theory regarding the origins of creation which can be taught alongside the theory of evolution. Consequently, he ordered that the teaching of intelligent design in the Dover public school system should end.

It is important to note that Judge Jones, who was appointed to the federal bench for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in 2002 by President George W. Bush, in no way fits the description of an “activist judge” who

makes decisions based upon his personal opinions and beliefs. To the contrary, Judge Jones listened to the facts and legal arguments of both sides in the case, and then rendered his decision as dictated by long-standing legal doctrines established by the US Supreme Court pertaining to the limits of teaching religious precepts in the public schools.

I happen to believe that Judge Jones’ decision was wise and correct. I agree with his conclusion that the ideas or concepts referred to as “intelligent design” constitute religious rather than scientific teaching and that they therefore should not be taught as “scientific” material in the public schools. Having said that, I hasten to add that as a Christian, I personally believe in the “religious” truth of intelligent design. That God, or an “intelligent” designer, works in and through the created universe I accept as a matter of *faith*, and then as fact.

Of course, apart from the narrower legal circumstances surrounding the “intelligent design” debate, there is a larger social circumstance at work. In his little pamphlet titled *A Rule of Life for Congregations*, Philip Turner III, former dean of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, writes, “It is the power of American culture rather than the Bap-

...as a Christian, I personally believe in the “religious” truth of intelligent design.

tismal Covenant that most shapes the identity of our congregations and their members.” He refers, of course, to our Episcopal congregations. But I believe that the same point of view can be applied to nearly every “mainline” congregation, if not also to most independent and “evangelical” congregations. Whether we consider ourselves liberal or conservative, traditional or modern in our attitudes and beliefs, no congregation is untouched by

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PARISH PICNIC—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
WORSHIP AT 10:30AM AT FRANCIS
SLOCUM, FOLLOWED BY PICNIC
(THERE WILL BE A 9AM EUCHARIST AT
THE CHURCH, AS WELL)



PLEASE,
remember to
inform the
church office
when
someone is
ill or
hospitalized.
We are no
longer
notified by
the hospitals
or Council of
Churches!

“Intelligent Design” and the Baptismal Covenant

the pervasive reach of American culture. Dean Turner goes on to say, “It is no longer the case that both Church and society shape Christian identity—that one can move from one to the other without crossing any obvious boundary.”

The recent “intelligent design” movement and the efforts to place the Ten Commandments in public places are, I suspect, an attempt on the part of some to resist, even turn back, the unrelenting push of the consumer oriented, market driven effects of secular American culture. Philip Turner suggests that even we Christians are so embedded in and imbued with this *American* identity

that we risk losing our *Christian* identity. Consequently, he says, “To maintain our Christian identity in that environment *we need to be solidly grounded in a congregation which offers us intentional and substantial guidance and support in living as Christians.*” (Italics added.)

In order to do so, Dean Turner offers a so-called “rule of life for congregations” to help them help their members to live out the Baptismal Covenant that we make when we become Christians. It is our stated commitment to live out the Baptismal Covenant that should distinguish our beliefs, attitudes and practices from those of the wider society

in which we live.

My vision, goal and prayer is to make Prince of Peace just such a congregation as Philip Turner describes. Please don’t be upset that I put this in the future tense. As individual Christians, my life and yours are always in a state of becoming; we are works in progress. If that is true for us individually, then it is true also for us as a congregation. The important thing is to continue on the journey. I hope we will do so with the help of small groups such as the one now being organized by Deacon Lou to study the meaning of baptism. Other such opportunities will be available soon. Stay tuned.

Your Friend and Rector,

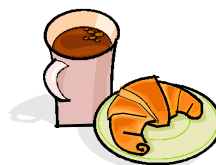
Peter

Layministry Schedules

The Layministry Schedules have been redesigned. The schedule in it's new format will be sent by regular mail or email to those who are scheduled to serve. (It is also posted at the church & on the church website.) If you have not already told the church office of your preferred way to receive the schedule please contact Jennifer ASAP.

Coffee Hour Hosts

If you would like to host the coffee hour one Sunday after church (provide a light snack) please sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish



CHOIR PRACTICES
RESUME ON
THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 14
Junior Choir 4:30 pm
Senior Choir 7:00 pm

WHAT IS BAPTISM? HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND AND LIVE INTO OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT TODAY?

How do we understand and live into our Baptismal covenant today? A small group of approximately 8 family units is forming to explore these questions and learn some of the history of Baptism, and then discuss what various sections of the covenant agreement mean to them. The group will meet at the homes, on a rotating

basis, of those who sign up. The group will begin 22 September, and end 10 November (no class Friday the 13th of October). We will meet on Friday evenings from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Thank you to those who have signed up! If you are still interested, please call the church office (or Lou Divis at 836-4961). Thanks!

Rummage

Sale

Set Up

Wed Sept 6,

Sale

Fri Sept 8 &

Sat Sept 9

Parish Picnic

Sun Sept 10,

Service 10:30

am at Francis

Slocum

followed by

picnic

Photo

Directory

Pictures

Tues & Wed

Sept 12 & 13

Dallas

Harvest

Festival

Sunday

September 17

1—6 pm

Bishop Paul to Visit Prince of Peace on Sunday October 8

Bishop Paul Marshall, Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem, will make his annual visitation to Prince of Peace at the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 8th. He will officiate at the service, preach and receive several new members into our parish.

Please plan to attend that day to welcome Bishop Paul and to welcome our newest members into our parish.

Parish Picnic

Sept 10, 2006 — 10:30 am

Service & Picnic will be held at
Francis Slocum—Bring a Lawn Chair
& a Dish to Share!

Have you made
Your
appointment
for the Photo
Directory yet?

Safeguarding God's Children



All Vestry members and employees of the church, as well as all of those who have access codes to the church are required to attend a diocesan 'Safeguarding God's Children' training class. A training will be held here at Prince of Peace on Saturday, September

23 from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.. The cost of the class is \$20 (including lunch) or \$15 (bring your own lunch). Please see or contact Jennifer to Register before September 17. If you have any questions about this training, please contact Father Harer.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, September 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m and Saturday (bag day), September 9 from 9 a.m. to noon. This year a bake sale will be included. Please bring your baked goods sized and packaged - ready for sale. Set-up for the rummage sale will begin Wednesday evening, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. Much help, most of the help will be needed then, including men and young people to set up tables, carry and lift heavy boxes and items, etc. in order to make this project a success. Many people stated that they could help with this rummage sale if it were held on Friday and Saturday, so, please sign what hours and days you can help on the "work chart" posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen doorway. Please eat your dinner before you come to help Wednesday evening as there will only be beverages and snack. Thank you.

"The Blessing of the animals" will be held on Sunday October 1 at 12-noon on the front lawn. Please bring your pet, and tell a friend!

Our normal 9am worship will be held in the church.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Parish Life

1st Sunday of each Month

Property

2nd Sunday of each month

Outreach

3rd Sunday of each month

Education

4th Sunday of each month (in the undercroft)

Finance

Sunday preceding the Vestry meeting

Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings!

Plans are underway for a U2charist to be held at Prince of Peace on Saturday February 17, 6pm. Watch for more information to come!



Sunday School News

Sunday
School
Classes

Resume on
September
24 at 9:00

KIDS: BRING
IN A WHITE
T-SHIRT ON
SEPT 24

(to be painted)

Pumpkin

Patch trip

will be on

October 15

at 11:30—

watch for

sign-ups

Children's Sabbath — October 15

Sunday October 15

Theme: Walk A Mile in Their Shoes

Everyone is asked to Wear some wacky or mismatched shoes!

In recognition of the Children's Sabbath, Each Sunday in the month of October the Sunday School will be taking an extra Offering for Healthy Supply Kits. Your offering can be monetary OR can be items

for these kits (ex-children's toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, diapers, diaper wipes, lotion, band-aids, antibiotic ointment, etc) The children will follow the ushers at the offertory, and will be carrying a large basket, in which your donations can be placed.

Thank you for helping children in need!

Walk A Mile In their Shoes...

bringing Hope Health and Healing to All God's Children



Walk a Mile in their Shoes, is an advocacy and prayer vigil project that invites congregation throughout the Diocese of Bethlehem to join in bringing Hope, Health and Healing to all God's Children. It begins with the observance of the National Children's Sabbath on October 15 (sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, Washington DC) and the Diocesan ECW's collection of Undies for Children at Risk at our

Diocesan Convention. In the months that follow congregations throughout the Diocese (**including ours!**) will unite in witness for children through prayer, education, and action.

Our Baptismal Covenant calls us to put our faith into action by standing for Healthy Children

Remember to check our website for current information
www.princeofpeacedallaspa.org

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

420 Main Street

Dallas, PA 18612

Phone: 570-675-1723

Website: www.princeofpeacedallaspa.org

E-mail: princeofpeace@epix.net

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

PARISH LEADERSHIP & VESTRY MEMBERS

The Reverend M. Peter Harer, Rector
The Reverend (Mary) Lou Divis, Deacon
Hugh Kelley, Senior Warden
Dan Monk, Junior Warden
Bonnie Hiscox, Treasurer
Carl Goeringer, Clerk of Vestry

VESTRY MEMBERS

Ed Dreisbach (2007)	Hugh Kelley (2008)	Chris Sutton (2009)
Gail Ide (2007)	Dan Monk(2008)	Linda Shrader (2009)
Mary Jillson-Stout (2007)	Sandy Sheehan (2008)	George Yatsko (2009)